

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /092 W
-----160317Z 091469 /72

R 151455Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7336
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1844

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: RH, PINT
SUBJ: RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT MINISTER OF MANPOWER, ROWAN CRONJE STATED ON APRIL 14 THAT RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT MAY" DEPART FROM PRESENT ATTITUDES" TOWARDS NATIONALIST PARTIES. GRONJE SAID " IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT NOT ONLY SOME INDIVIDUALS, BUT ALSO PARTICULAR GROUPS THAT WE HAVE HITHERTO ALLOWED FREEDOM OF ACTION, ARE ACTIVELY ASSISTING... THOSE VERY PEOPLE AGAINST WHOM WE ARE WAGING A MILITARY WAR." ALTHOUGH GRONJE DID NOT MENTION ANY NAMES, HIS REFERENCE IS APPARENTLY TO NKOMO ANC SUPPORTERS AND OTHER SPLINTER GROUP CALLED THE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT, WHICH CLAIMS TO SUPPORT MUGABE. BOTH NOW OPERATE LEGALLY IN RHODESIA, ALONG WITH MUZOREWA ANC FACTION.

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2. IN ANOTHER STATEMENT, CRONJE ANNOUNCED IMMEDIATE REGISTRATION OF ALL WHITE, COLORED AND ASIAN MALES BETWEEN 38 AND 50 WHO HAVE NO OTHER MILITARY COMMITMENT. THIS WAS A MOVE THAT HAD BEEN CONTEMPLATED FOR SOME TIME(SEE PRETORIA 468). ACCORDING TO CRONJE THERE ARE SEVERAL THOUSAND MEN IN THIS AGE GROUP WHO HAVE TOTALLY MISSED MILITARY SERVICE. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 13

THAT A SELECTED NUMBER OF MEN NOW SERVING IN POLICE UNITS
WOULD BE MOVED INTO THE ARMY.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, WITH THE CALL-UP SYSTEM AS NOW
DEvised, ALL WHITE RHODESIAN MALES BETWEEN 17 AND 38 DO ABOUT
FOUR MONTHS ACTIVE SERVICE PER YEAR, USUALLY IN ABOUT FOUR
SEPARTATE STINTS DUEING THE YEAR. THOSE RHODESIANS OVER 38 WHO
HAD PREVIOUS MILITARY SERVICE ARE ALSO CALLED INTO SERVICE
REGULARLY. DRAFTING OF COLOREDS AND ASIANS IN NEW DEVELOPMENT,
ALTHOUGH COLOREDS, ASIANS AND BLACKS SERVE VOLUNTARYILY. THERE
HAS ALSO BEEN RECENT SPECULATION, PROMPTED BY REMARKS OF FORMER
MANPOWER MINISTER, REG COWPER IN JULY LAST YEAR, THAT DRAFT MAY
BE EXTENDED TO BLACKS. THIS COULD POLITICAL FLASHPOINT
BECAUSE WHEN SUGGESTION WAS FIRST MOOTED, IT SPAWNED A SHARP
REACTION INCLUDING SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS BY BLACK
STUDENTS. (SEE PRETORIA A-112 1976). BOWDLER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PINT, RH, (CRONJE, ROWAN)
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